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Organized Feb. 9, 1949

SABINE-NECHES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

NOV 21 2003

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November 6, 2003

Ms Marlene H Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S W

Washington, D C 20554

Dear Madam Secretary

The Sabine Neches Chief's Association is writing to express its opposition to Nextel taking the 800 MHz radio frequency band from Public Safety Agencies "The Consensus Plan" and urge the FCC to adopt a more balanced approach. We feel that the Consensus Plan will unnecessarily jeopardize Public Safety communications systems resulting in lost interoperability and great financial hardship to municipalities and industry. Instead, the FCC should adopt a solution that does not put Public Safety Licenses in jeopardy of having to be relocated reducing interoperability capabilities with other entities.

The Sabine Neches Chief's Association (SNCA) has been a Mutual-Aid organization since 1949 serving ninety-five separate Municipal Fire and Police Departments, Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Private EMS, and Industrial Refineries. The SNCA is a regional organization covering a three county area with approximately 350,000 residents.

Several municipal Fire and Police Departments use a Regional 800MHz Sharenet System for daily radio use. The system is provided by one of our local industries and one-municipality licenses 10 frequencies for use by four (4) area municipalities. The municipalities purchased radios for their respective public safety fire, police, EMS, & public works departments to use. Federal and State Agencies in South East Texas also use the same 800 MHz Sharenet System.

The SNCA has numerous separate 800 MHz Radio Systems used by the local industrial and chemical refineries. We have closed the barrier to cross programming and are including other 800MHz systems in the regional radios for better

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NOV 19 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

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Providing Mutual Aid for Over 50 Years

NOV 25 2003

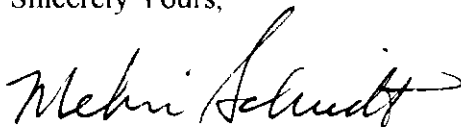
FCC-GBG MAILROOM

interoperability As a member of the Sabine Neches Chief's (Mutual-Aid) Association, an entity has the ability to talk to most of the ninety-five (95) industry and municipality members in a three county region (population 350,000)

The idea of moving Public Safety Agencies and industry away from the 800MHz frequency band would create a huge financial burden on all municipalities and industry. It simply does not make sense to force a frequency change for Public Safety so that Nextel can use the full range of the 800 MHz band. Originally, Public Safety Agencies moved to the 800 MHz frequencies under the premise that the 800MHz would be the frequency used for Public Safety. The South East Texas Region would lose its interoperability capability, millions of dollars, and thousands of man-hours to make this change. In the end we will lose interoperability with thousands of regional responders and nearly a hundred different entities.

We are concerned that our current good interoperability capabilities will not be allowed to remain. Therefore, the Sabine Neches Chief's Association opposes Nextel's proposed (Consensus Plan) and urges a balanced approach by the FCC that helps Public Safety Agencies and Industry maintain the good level of interoperability they need and that municipalities and industry will not be faced with unfunded financial burdens.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin Schmidt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melvin Schmidt, President
Sabine Neches Chief's Association